

THE JERUSALEM POST

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Column One Daily Courtesy

IT is difficult to foresee the consequences of General Sir Brian Robertson's visit to Israel. It is not at all difficult to guess at them in the exuberant atmosphere in which pacts and counter-pacts, bases and counter-bases are seen as regularly and disturbingly as the flying saucer. The British Commander-in-Chief's visit comes close upon a set of rumours and reports that have hinted at military alliance between Israel and Turkey, the setting up of British bases in the Negev, and the promotion from Athens and Ankara of a Mediterranean Pact to which Israel, in return for the favours of America, would be expected to respond loyally. What is more, the visit coincides with the gathering of U.S. diplomats at Istanbul, at which the question of Middle East security has been discussed in relation to the general problem of Western security.

COURTESY-calls for courtesy's sake are an unlikely luxury just now and it is probable that some of the portents have been shrewdly detected. The British Commander-in-Chief may be expected to have brought with him in his satchel a list of pertinent questions on the subject of security which the responsible authorities in Israel will answer or not as they think fit. Those responsible authorities may be expected also to have jotted down a few queries to put to General Robertson. What is unlikely is that the questions and answers should have any formal relevance to pacts or treaties, alliances or any other manner of contract involving strategic or political commitment. Apart altogether from the stresses and prospects of international groupings, it has to be realized that Britain, strategically, is one of Israel's neighbours and that, whatever may be the foreign policy of each, there is good ground for some form of consultation between them on the general question of regional security.

As long as the occasion is as informative one, it should make little difference that General Robertson has come at a moment of national political crisis. At the same time, it is unlikely that Mr. Ben Gurion need even the possibility of someone else at the head of a new government or in charge of his darling among portfolios, the Ministry of Defence. He should therefore be able to impress General Robertson with his authority; and, in speaking for the army of Israel, as to its wants and what it might do in certain circumstances, to speak convincingly. The British and American Governments, in their dealings with Israel on the subject of regional security are likely to be glad enough to take certain prospects on trust, rather than insist upon formal and conspicuous assurances or bonds which might have the effect of deepening and widening the present national rifts, with consequences as perilous to security as to social unity.

THE visit of General Robertson tells strikingly of the pace at which history revolves nowadays; and, at the same time, of the absurd and despotism engendered into which its mad revolutions have pitched us all. No one, three years ago, could have guessed at an official call of this kind so soon and for such a purpose. If it argues a basis of friendship and mutual interest between the two countries, so much the better. If it argues a world situation which forces nations, in the phrase of General Eisenhower, to let bygones be bygones for the sake of fighting a probable war together, so much the worse. Perhaps if war should be avoided and a basis of friendship be sustained, that would be best of all.

Tel Aviv, Feb. 19.

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Chinese Withdrawing, Lose Key Supply Town

TOKYO, Sunday (Reuters). — U.N. forces hit back strongly in Korea today as the Communist counter-offensive drove the Chinese to break up under the pounding of shells and bombs. One U.N. armoured column chasing retreating Chinese swung north-east of the Chipyong area and entered the town of Yangpyong, major supply base on the north bank of the Han River.

British and American troops farther west advanced up to 2,000 metres, without opposition, and threatened to outflank Seoul. Communist-held Southern capital. Troops lining the banks of the Han opposite the battered city at Yongdongpo reported little activity.

A Ninth Corps spokesman this morning reported evidence of a massed artillery fire from American and South Korean troops broke a "last gasp" suicide attack by the North Korean Fifth Corps on the road and rail junction of Checheon after driving through the town to within six km. of the town.

At least one North Korean division, supported by elements of another, still threatened Checheon which commands a road network down through the central mountains to the Eighth Army's rear.

West Doubts Sincerity Of Stalin's 'Peace' Statements

WASHINGTON, Sunday. — The State Department last night branded Prime Minister Stalin's "Pravda" interview as "one more misstatement" and said it cannot obscure the fact of "Soviet responsibility for aggression." No man alive knows better than Stalin what behind the Communist aggression in Korea, the Department added in a statement. It said that Stalin and his associates have the power to remove the threat of war if they will.

Unofficial observers in the U.S. believed Marshal Stalin's attack on the U.N. might signal Russia's early withdrawal from the world organization. They noted with little optimism his statement that the U.N. was "dooming itself to disintegration" with the U.S. turning it into a means for unleashing a new war.

LONDON. — The assertion that Soviet Russia had mobilized its armed forces was generally greeted with complete scepticism. Some observers thought Marshal Stalin's answers to the interview questions were designed to show the West that Russia desired to "talk things over" at the four-power talks she has proposed without, however, indicating any weakness on her part.

Dr. Hewlett Johnson, "Red Dean" of Canterbury, today announced that he had sent this message to "Pravda": "Stalin's statement is calm, logical and clear. It blows like a clean wind through the confusion of false propaganda, spread by the enemies of peace. It has stripped Attlee of his excuses for Britain's new huge arms programme and has left him naked, and I hope, ashamed."

White-haired Dr. Johnson, who is 76, sent the message as President of the British-Soviet Friendship Society.

Other Capitals
PARIS. — French diplomatic quarters said the declaration showed British Prime Minister Attlee's attack on Russian rearmament in the House of Commons last Monday had been "particularly successful." They stressed the "extraordinary weakness" of Marshal Stalin's statement, saying he had given no facts or figures to demerit charges of Soviet rearmament.

3,000 U.K. Railway In Walkout Over Wage Demands

LONDON, Sunday (Reuters). — Railway workers in various parts of Britain are threatening to strike for higher wages. In Manchester, 3,000 men were decided to walk out at midnight tonight, and branch unions leaders have called on 11,000 guards, porters and signallers in the Greater Manchester area to strike at midnight on Tuesday.

Ignoring official appeals to delay action, 800 engine drivers and firemen at Piddington, one of London's main railway stations, decided today that they will strike every weekday from next Friday, until they get the wage increases they demand.

Yesterday, 1,600 men at Liverpool started a "new dawn" movement, and a similar movement is developing in Sheffield. Other railwaymen's meetings being held throughout the country are expected to spread the strike movement.

A Dock Strike Goes On
The Merseyside dock strike is continuing on Tuesday. About 7,000 engineering and shipyard workers are continuing to work, but they are continuing to be overruled by the dockers. At Hillingdon (London), 2,000 employees of the Royal Navy against dockers, and the protest of Claven Bros. at Stockport has now been closed for a fortnight because of what the workers describe as a lock-out of men and employers and a decision not to make the castings which Claven requires for defence and naval work on special machine tools.

In Belgium, 70,000 miners, on an unofficial strike, have been ordered to return to work tomorrow. The order follows a meeting of the government and the miners' union today at which it was announced that the government would agree to pay the workers a weekly increase of four per cent wage increase retroactive to January 1.

Leading British Communists Quit

LONDON, Sunday (Reuters). — Resignations of several leading members of the British Communist Party, in line with defections in France and Italy, were reported yesterday. These named were Mr. Norman Kesteven, a key Party member and London area secretary, and Mr. William Weaver, London organizer of the Building Trade Workers' Union, who had been expelled from the Party for alleged disloyalty to the Soviet Union. Mr. Weaver's resignation has been accepted.

St. Cloud Will Be like H.Q.

VERSAILLES, Sunday (Reuters). — Part of General Eisenhower's new Atlantic Army H.Q. will be at St. Cloud, about 15 km. from Paris, on the road to Versailles. The proposed prefabricated headquarters compound is already being called "Eisenhowerville" by French newspapers.

Tito: West is Not Imperialistic

BELGRADE, Sunday (UP). — Marshal Tito has warned the Yugoslav Communist Party that anyone who questions his policy of cooperating with the West will be treated as an enemy of the party, informed sources said today.

At the same time, he has told local Party groups that "we are not alone" and explained the value of Western warnings that an attack on Yugoslavia would not remain localized, the sources said.

The Marshal also said that Party members should stop regarding the Western powers as imperialists and to begin calling them friends.

Poland Warns Small Nations Against Bonn

WARSAW, Sunday (UP). — Poland has called on three small western neighbours of Germany to block West German rearmament and support a Big Four meeting with Russia, it was reported yesterday.

Britain Releases Stealing to Iraq

LONDON, Sunday (Reuters). — Britain and Iraq have concluded arrangements for meeting Iraq's essential source currency requirements until September, the Treasury announced tonight.

Iraq's working balance in sterling is to be increased from £2m. to £2m. Provision is made for releasing sterling up to £5m. to keep Iraq's No. 1 account at that figure during the remaining period of operation of the Anglo-Iraqi financial agreement of 1947.

M.A.C. SETTLES GILBOA DISPUTE

Last Friday's border incident near Arabunna village in the Gilboa Hills was settled yesterday at an emergency meeting of the Israel-Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission, when it was agreed that both sides may have violated the demarcation line.

Noting that the line in the area is not clearly marked, the M.A.C. requested "both sides to take severe measures to stop such incidents in the future."

It also was agreed that the border may have been crossed illegally by a "detachment of the Israeli Army and Arab shepherds, when it appears that fire was exchanged across the demarcation line as a result of the difference of opinion as to which side of the line the Jordan flock was grazing on."

Speedy Investigation

The meeting was called following reports from Israel, Jordan, and considered a report from the joint inquiry group which carried out a spot investigation on the afternoon of the incident. The shootings occurred at a village near Arabunna village, a few miles from the edge of an swampy area, the area being lying in Israel territory.

Israel has frequently accused Jordan shepherds with flocks grazing in this area. The area is a disputed area, and the demarcation line is not clearly marked. The M.A.C. requested "both sides to take severe measures to stop such incidents in the future."

France Informed Of Malta Talks on M.E.

PARIS, Sunday (Reuters). — The French government has been kept officially informed of the decisions taken at the recent Anglo-American conference in Malta on the defence of the Near East, usually well informed quarters said here last night.

There was no reason to suppose that any of the decisions were counter to the common statement of policy agreed on by the U.S., France and Britain last year.

The matter had been raised today by "Le Monde," influential French evening paper, which complained that France had received no official information on results of the three-day secret conference attended by British and American service chiefs.

It was not denied here that the French government had agreed to the Malta conference at the same time as the U.S. and Britain. The French government had no reason to believe that British policy was being altered, contrary to the letter or to the spirit of the tri-partite declaration.

McGhee and Finletter To Visit Cairo

CAIRO, Sunday (REU). — Mr. George McGhee, U.S. Undersecretary of State for the Middle East, and Mr. Thomas K. Finletter, U.S. Air Secretary, are expected to visit Cairo after the close of the Lebanon conference for talks with Egyptian Prime Minister, on the problems of Arab refugees, peace with Israel within a Middle East pact, and Anglo-Egyptian relations.

NEADS commented today that both Arabs and Jews are looking to the day when peace will be signed between their countries and Israel. This would mean the end of the Jewish exodus and the end of the Arab refugee problem.

The commentator said border incidents are caused by the ignorance of both Israelis and Jordanians of the rules governing the no-man's-land. The armistice borders are sometimes so narrow that shepherds and villagers often lose their way and cross accidentally.

MAPAI SPOKESMEN Call For Election

By Moshe Brilliant
TEL AVIV, Sunday. — Hope of avoiding the dissolution of the First Knesset receded today when Mapai representatives told President Weizmann that their party favours new elections, believing that there is no other way of achieving a stable Government. They proposed that the outgoing Government should serve until a new cabinet is formed after elections.

The President was conferring at Rehovot with parliamentary leaders in accordance with the provisions of the "Basic Constitution" that he meet with House leaders in case of a Parliamentary crisis, and then charge one of them with the formation of a Government.

The President talked for 40 minutes with Mr. Zalman Aranne, the Mapai secretary, and Mr. Meir Argov, the Party's parliamentary whip. He later received Mr. Haim Ben Aharon and Mr. Yaakov Rittin of Mapai, and finally a five-man delegation of the Religious Bloc, including Rabbi Mordecai Nurock, Dr. Yosef Burg, Mr. Yaakov Greenberg, Mr. Eliahu Masur and Rabbi Kalman Kahane. Mr. D. Z. Pines, who was to have been on the delegation, was indisposed.

Dr. Weizmann will conclude the consultations tomorrow after meeting representatives of the smaller parties.

The President was patently unhappy about the prospect of national elections at a time of economic difficulties in Israel and of political crisis abroad. He told his visitors that he deplored the fact that the first Jewish Parliament in 2,000 years should not be able to complete its full period of office.

Coalition Offers
Mapai and the Religious Bloc proposed alternative conditions. Mapai renewed their offer for a coalition government of Mapai and Mapai, who between them command a Knesset majority. Efforts for such a coalition failed in 1949 and again last year when agreement could not be reached by the two parties on the programme to be carried out by the coalition.

Mr. Zev Sharet, Secretary to the Government, said that the President's private secretary, Mr. Yigal Kischine, was present at the meeting. The President's private secretary, Mr. Yigal Kischine, was present at the meeting. The President's private secretary, Mr. Yigal Kischine, was present at the meeting.

Labour Walks Out Of T.A. Council

TEL AVIV, Sunday. — The Labour opposition in the Municipal Council here walked out from the Council's meeting tonight when Mayor Rokach refused to assure them a share in the committee chairmanships. He told the walk-out the Council rejected a Histadrut proposal to elect Review, Personnel and Municipal Property Committees. After they left, a speaker for Herut admitted that the majority was opposed to giving Labour any chairmanships on the committees.

In a statement read by Mr. E. Peri the Labour factions maintained that in all other municipalities the opposition was given the right to preside over some of the committees. The fact that the majority was against a Review Committee was significant, Mr. Peri thought.

Mayor Rokach, following Mr. S. Shoham's (Land) advice, asked the Council to adjourn until Thursday, when he expects to start with the election of the Finance, Town Planning, Education and a Tender Committee. In the meantime, he would try and persuade the opposition to return.

Before the rift, the Council had agreed to a Technical Inquiry Commission, to be sponsored by the Municipality, the Ministry of Communications and the Marine Trust Ltd., which would recommend a route for a proposed railway through Tel Aviv. The Council also approved loans to be received from the Treasury and the Anglo-Palestine Bank to the amount of IL100,000, out of which IL100,000 would be paid for the purchase of the San Remo Hotel, where the first Knesset had met.

PETAH TIKVA COUNCIL
PETAH TIKVA, Sunday. — The Poalei Agudat Israel did not appear at a meeting arranged here tonight by the Labour parties represented at the Municipal Council. The faction had signed the invitation to the meeting.

Mr. D. Tabachnik, Vice-Mayor under Mr. Rashish, asked for new municipal elections.

Salah Sees Suez Canal President

CAIRO, Sunday (Reuters). — The president of the Suez Canal Company, M. Francois Charles Roux, conferred with Egyptian Foreign Minister Salah el-Din Ben yesterday on the restrictions imposed on shipping passing through the Canal.

The Norwegian Minister in Egypt, C. Irgens, also called on the Minister to protest against the restrictions. Protests against them were submitted last summer by the U.S., Sweden, France, the Netherlands, Norway and Britain.

Mr. Roux said that the Canal Company was not in a position to make any concessions. He said that the Canal Company was not in a position to make any concessions. He said that the Canal Company was not in a position to make any concessions.

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Sharett: Country United on Big Issues

TEL AVIV, Sunday. — The apparent divergence of opinion in the State should not obscure in the mind of world Jewry or the outside world the fact that the country was essentially united on all major issues, Mr. Moshe Sharett Minister for Foreign Affairs, said here today. He was speaking at a luncheon given in his honour by the Israel Wizo. Mr. Sharett was introduced by Mrs. Rebecca Sieff and the Wizo Knesset member, Rachel Kagan.

The four important points on which there was a large measure of agreement, according to Mr. Sharett, are as follows:

1. A desire for peace with the neighbouring countries; the present armistice agreement being regarded as a basis for permanent peace.

2. Active efforts at U.N. for world peace within Israel's limited capacities.

3. Continuation of the process of the need for outside assistance from both Jewish and general sources to finance the tremendous development and rehabilitation efforts, it being understood that help would depend on the burden which the people of Israel would be willing to shoulder themselves.

Mr. Sharett said that the present international situation made things more difficult for Israel because those who were able to offer assistance were now thinking in terms of a possible war.

Yet it was no use ignoring the situation, Mr. Sharett said. It was a fact that the Jewish people were now thinking in terms of a possible war. Yet it was no use ignoring the situation, Mr. Sharett said.

There is no tendency in diplomatic circles here to assume that anything in the nature of a pact or other formal commitment is even contemplated by General Robertson, much less by the Government of Israel. At the same time, interest in the visit is extremely keen.

The Syrian Legion in Cairo yesterday denied that General Robertson had made any demand for military bases in Syria, according to Reuters.

Smuggling Jews Out
Of East Europe
ATLANTIC CITY, Sunday (INA). — The Jewish underground is at present operating behind the Iron Curtain to arrange the escape of those Jews who by ordinary means could never reach safe haven in Israel or other freedom ports. Mr. Jacob Patt, Executive Secretary of the Jewish Labour Committee, last night told the Executive of the Committee, which is holding a national conference here. The Jewish underground has so far rescued more than 1,000 such Jews, he said.

While large numbers of Jews in Poland, Rumania and Hungary have been brought to Israel by recognized relief agencies, thousands of trade unionists, cultural leaders and Social Democrats whom the Communist authorities would not permit to leave, Mr. Patt said. They were facing the alternative of betrayal and expulsion to slave labour camps, or flight. To aid these people, a Jewish underground had been set up, he explained.

Expulsion or Flight
Citing the difficulties of the people to emigrate by normal means, Mr. Patt pointed out that Jews registering in Poland for emigration to Israel had to renounce their Polish nationality and then wait ten to twelve months for an exit visa. During this time they were at the mercy of the Jewish Communist organizations which could allow them to leave for Israel or denounce them as anti-Communists to be interned. Former labour leaders were particularly labelled traitors for wishing to leave the country, Mr. Patt said, adding that their only alternative was to be smuggled out of the country.

Council Approves 43m.
Agency Budget
A budget of IL42,757,000 for Jewish Agency activities during 5711 was approved at the end of the last week at a meeting of the Permanent Finance and Budget Committee of the Zionist General Council. The budget, which was proposed by the Jewish Agency Executive, allocated IL20,000,000 for settlement, and IL20,000,000 for the Administration of the Agency and the Palestine Foundation Fund in Israel.

Other items on the budget were: Immigration and aid to immigrants, IL2,537,000; absorption, IL2m.; Youth Aliya, IL2,700,000; amortization, IL2.7m. The remaining IL1.1m. have been divided among the following Departments: Economic, Near East, Youth and Rehabilitation, Education, Training, Absorption, Public Relations, Publicity, Education and Culture in the Diaspora, Jewish Development, the Rav Kook Foundation, Religious Needs, and other branches.

MEMORIAL MEETING
A memorial meeting for the late NAHUM TISHBY
Director of the Department for Development of Industry of the Israel Government, and one of the founders of Jewish industry in Eretz-Israel, will be held today, Monday, February 19, at 4 p.m. at the Beit Hachochim, Jerusalem. All those who respect his memory are invited to attend.
MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION OF ISRAEL
Jerusalem Branch

